



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

N.C. Center for Safer Schools

Pat McCrory, Governor
Frank L. Perry, Secretary

Greg Baker, Commissioner
Kym Martin, Executive Director

Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences – Nature Research Center Sept. 30, 2015

Members

Chip Hughes
Mary Jane Ferguson
Joe Pass
Ben Matthews
Frank L. Perry
Ricky Parks
Robert Holland
Donna White
Evonne Moore
Kolby Holland
Wendy Jordan
Karin Evanoff
Tom Kilby

Guests

Scott Grantham
Kat Haney
Barbara Leland
Wanda Boone
Mark Strickland
Matt Knight
Doug Coley
Mac Daugherty
Tonya Holland
Israel Morrow
William Lassiter
Sheriff Chris Davis
Jeff White
Billy Clayton
Chris Minard
John Long
Dawn Johnson
Haley Boone
Jennifer McLain
Kelly McCarraher
Michael Spencer
Pamela Boudah
Donna Dougherty
Sam Estridge
D.H. Robinson
Gloria Bridges
Judge Chris Dillon

Erica Gallion
Harriett Southerland
B. Johnson
Freddy Johnson Jr.
Rachel Johnson

Staff

Mike Anderson
J.R. Gorham
Diana Kees
Lisa Partin
Dick Hayes
George Dudley
Kym Martin
Clyde Roper

Welcome/Introduction of Guests

Chairman Chip Hughes called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m. and introduction of guests were made. Chairman Hughes expressed appreciation to all the stakeholders present.

Chairman Hughes made motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Holland, and the motion passed.

William Lassiter, deputy commissioner of the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, provided a welcome on behalf of Department of Public Safety Secretary Frank L. Perry, and thanked all stakeholders for their continuing commitment.

• Special Presentation: School Safety Excellence Award

Center for Safer Schools Executive Director Kym Martin and Deputy Director Mike Anderson presented the School Safety Excellence Award to Chris Minard with the Department of Public Instruction. The award recognizes Ms. Minard's dedication and commitment to promoting an agenda of school safety across North Carolina.

Dr. Ben Matthews presented Ms. Minard with a cap in recognition of her service.

MAILING ADDRESS:
4218 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27607

www.ncdps.gov



An Equal Opportunity employer

OFFICE LOCATION:
Claude T. Bowers Military Center
4105 Reedy Creek Road
Raleigh, NC 27607
Telephone: (919) 324-6380

New Member Swearing-In

N.C. Court of Appeals Judge Chris Dillon administered the oath of office to Kolby Holland, the newest Task Force member. Ms. Holland will fill the slot designated for a high school student attending a public high school.

Executive Committee Report

- Chairman Hughes reported the Executive Committee met yesterday to discuss goals and objectives for the coming year.
- A representative from N.C. State University's Division of Academic and Students Affairs presented information on the effects of drugs and alcohol on adolescent and early 20-year-old brain development.
- A fourth subcommittee has been formed to deal with the growing problem of drugs, alcohol and gangs in school—a key issue to be addressed is the increased use of heroin. The subcommittee is led by Ricky Parks and Matt Knight.
- The Executive Committee continues to work with the General Assembly and the Governor's Office to make sure the Center for Safer Schools has resources to accomplish its tasks.
- Critical Incident Training for School Faculty and Staff continues, with training scheduled for Oct. 8 in Brunswick County at Cedar Grove Middle School.
- The next Task Force meeting is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 8-9 at the Governor's Crime Commission office in Raleigh. Chairman Hughes reminded members to consider nominations for the school safety excellence award and turn any nominations in to the subcommittee chairs.

Executive Director's Report

- Director Martin reported that the Center for Safer Schools will be working with the Fusion Center, part of the State Bureau of Investigation. Two new school safety specialists will be housed in the Fusion Center to focus on student social media safety concerns and tips coming in through the anonymous reporting student app. Special Agent John Long from the Fusion Center was recognized.
- House Bill 97 was ratified and signed by the Governor on Friday. The bill updates some of the legislation from 2013, and now requires that each school conduct a lockdown drill based on an intruder on campus at least once a year.

Legislation also now requires that each school have a School Risk Management Plan in place by March 2017. N.C. Emergency Management will be piloting the plans later in the year.

The anonymous tip line for students is now a requirement statewide and must be in place by July 1, 2016. Training is ongoing in five pilot counties and school readiness to receive, process and investigate students tips will be assessed before counties can begin to receive live student tips.

- Luke Stancil will be working two afternoons a week with the Student Engagement Committee on marketing the anonymous reporting app, SPK UP NC. (Video clips were shown of students giving their viewpoint about the app) The categories for reporting are: bullying, drugs, underage drinking, weapons, generic/danger and fighting.

Additionally, in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services, the app includes a button to press for the Suicide Lifeline that will take the student outside the app and place a direct call to the lifeline for response by a trained mental health professional. Calls to the Lifeline will break the anonymity of the caller, as their phone number will be displayed.

- The third annual Report to the Governor is being completed. The Task Force has a section that shows its accomplishments and goals for the next year.

Special presentation: Bullying Prevention Month and School Safety Awareness Week

Iredell Statesville School's student Jennifer McLain presented a project called The Ignite Summit, an anti-bullying event that began as part of her Girl Scouts Silver Award Project. Students from middle and high schools in the district gathered to design plans to fight bullying. The project has been very successful and Ms. McLain hopes to take the project statewide.

Steering committee reports

Mental Health and Students with Special Needs

In Chairman Greta Metcalf's absence, Wendy Jordan reported the following ongoing topics and future initiatives

- Early intervention has been a major topic for the committee as well as linking families with appropriate resources
- Assist the school systems with the pilot of the anonymous reporting app through supporting the behavioral/mental health and substance abuse tips that will come in. This will be accomplished through technical assistance by subcommittee members, and packets that include threat assessment tools.
- Encourage schools to adopt a framework to address substance abuse through the use of screening tools
- Develop strategies to direct MCOs and LMEs to partner with school systems to ensure they have access to care

Physical Security and Emergency Preparedness

Chairman Robert Holland reported that the committee will work on the following three goals:

- The committee will continue to be a support system to the schools
- Development of a standardized threat assessment tool and work with the School Risk and Response Management System
- Continuing the Critical Incident Response Training with the support of school superintendents and principals

Chairman Holland also reported that a press event will be held Oct. 13 to recognize the five officers and the school bus driver involved in an incident at a Macon County School. The Macon County School Superintendent, the School Board and County Commissioners will be present at this event.

School Climate and Discipline

Chairman Dr. Ben Matthews reported the committee will work on the following goals:

- Development of public service announcements dealing with drug and alcohol abuse; begin highlighting students who do not participate in the consumption of alcohol and drugs
- Look at policy issues around bullying and the need to develop a clear definition of bullying
- Kolby Holland will be looking at programs that are evidence-based and support a positive environment/climate within schools

Substance Abuse and Gang Intervention

Chairman Ricky Parks reported the committee has developed the following goals:

- Develop a strategy to market educational data for parents, students and staff on ways to recognize and minimize dependency and abuse of drugs and alcohol;
- Provide gang awareness and intervention training to school staff and administrators through a train-the-trainer program developed in partnership with N.C. Gang Investigators and other like organizations;
- Adopt a statewide policy addressing gang behaviors within schools and appropriate courses of action to address these behaviors; and
- Implement a resource-based gang presentation including awareness, education, parent and community brochures, training opportunities and best practices modules.

Co-Chair Matt Knight reported that the substance abuse and prescription drug use problem in schools involves the person who is taking the drug before school, in school and after school. Co-chair Knight indicated that the committee would reach out to the other committees for assistance in finding these answers.

Report from Secretary Perry

DPS Secretary Frank L. Perry provided an update on the budget regarding the Law Enforcement Division being removed. Secretary Perry indicated that the Center for Safer Schools and Director Martin will report directly to him. Secretary Perry emphasized that the Center will be the number one priority for DPS during the short session of the General Assembly.

Special Report from Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools: Community School Safety Updates: Strength and Needs

Rachel Johnson with the Division of Mental Health reported attending a "compassion reaction launch" in August at Trillium MCO. The purpose of the launch was to teach youth to be advocates and support one another around mental illness. Another initiative included in the launch was called Rachel's Challenge, which came about following the Columbine incident and promotes a positive school climate.

Currently there are 413 Mental Health First-Aid adult instructors and more than 14,000 people who have taken the course. Available trainings can be found on the Crisis Solutions website.

Ricky Parks recently provided a bullying presentation at a youth conference, and demand remains high for information in this area. Mary Jane Ferguson recently met with the Cherokee Superintendent and presented to the school board on bullying.

Update on School Risk and Response Management System: Monitoring, Planning and Exercise, Response

Luke Stancil reported that the Student Advisory Committee met and the students quickly became engaged. The app was demonstrated and the students rated the app an eight out of ten.

John Dorman with N.C. Emergency Management reported that all 2,306 maps and schematics of schools have been acquired and 2,114 have been updated to an enhanced PDF version. Only three counties had just a hard copy of the maps/schematics.

State law now requires that N.C. Emergency Management, The Center for Safer Schools with DPI and the 911 board implement a panic alarm application.

The State Emergency Response Commission is providing \$100,000 for a community college campus emergency application. This will support about 30 campuses.

Partnering Agency Update – Department of Justice

Scott Grantham that the N.C. Justice Academy is developing a new class, titled "Wellness of an SRO."

New Business

The next meeting of the Governor's Task Force is scheduled for Dec. 9 at the Governor's Crime Commission office.

Sheriff Holland moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.